SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Promotion of
Bird Enjoyment, Bird Study and Bird Conservation

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BIRD CLUB PROGRAM

THE NEXT MEETING OF OUR CLUB will be held the third Wednesday of the month, NEXT WEDNESDAY, January 18,1933 at 8 p.m., at Cabanne Library, Cabanne and Union Blvd. SUBJECT: THE HAWK, THE MOST MALIGNED OF OUR BIRDS, by Dr. R. J. Terry. This subject is extremely pertinent now in Missouri, when individual and organized bird lovers should cooperate in guiding our legislatore and our educators wisely. Be sure to give Dr. Terry your moral support by being present at 8 p.m., sharp.

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TIME TO PAY DUES

Dues should be paid in January for the calendar year. Please send your dollar or hand it in person to Miss Cousland or to Mr. Moser now, without waiting for the Club to spend 3% of the dues as postage on the notice. Why not pay $10.00 for Life Membership and save the worry?

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EXCHANGES

Our St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin is being mailed to a few contemporary Bird Organizations and we are happy to acknowledge exchanges from The Raven, Lynchburg, Va.; The Massachusetts Audubon Bulletin, Boston; Iowa Bird Life, Winthrop, Ia.; Wilson Bulletin, Morningside College, Sioux City, Ia.

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

I have a few notes of interest in the bird line,- observations obtained since the departure of the long spell of zero temperature at the middle of December. It was pleasing to find on the 27th that two Robins had withstood the great cold, thanks to the rich crop of haws in one of the fine suburban places; and they were not alone but had as companions a small troop of Cedarbirds and a few Purple Finches. The same Robins were met again at the same place on Jan. 3 and on Jan. 9, when they were accompanied by two Flickers and a Redbird in full song amongst a troup of Juncos. On Jan. 6 we were lucky to be at the Creve Coeur Lake when two Bald Eagles together with four Herring Gulls were battling against the strong gale. The most amusing sight was the difference in size of the two species.

On January 8 my son was so fortunate as to see on a farm near Festus, Mo., four Pileated Woodpeckers, besides Redheaded Woodpeckers, Robins, Cardinals and Creepers. He also had a Redheaded Woodpecker lately on an elm tree in front of his home on Lockwood Ave., probably a winter sojourner of Webster Groves. O. Widmann.

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OBSERVATIONS AT RANKIN, MO., 12/18/32.

Pileated Woodpecker
Cedar Waxwings
Belted Kingfisher
Goldfinch
Starlings (150)

AT WEBSTER GROVES, MO.,

12/27/32, Screech Owl (gray phase)
1/ 6/33, 3♀ Rubycrowned Kinglets
1/ 6/33, 2 Crows
1/ 7/33, 6 Bob Whites
1/ 9/33, 1 Brown Creeper
1/12/33, 1 Downy Woodpecker.

Marshall Magner.

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ON THE AUDUBON PRESS BULLETINS

The Bald Eagle, the emblem of our national independence, has recently been unjustly defamed in the public press. In effect, the Audubon Society Bulletin says it matters not whether the bird eats stolen fish or corned-beef and cabbage, "the beauty and majesty of his noble form and powerful flight" as "he soars aloft....to rise above the menial things of earth,..... constitutes him no mean emblem of our country." We are glad to know that the Audubon Society is endeavoring to bring about protective legislation for this bird in those states where protection is not established.

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Did you know that wild fowl is baited with grain to facilitate the shooting of the bag limit?

Did you know that wild fowlare decoyed by artificial birds and, worse yet, by trained, more or less tamed squawking and honking "crips" to make the "kill" sure and easy?

The National Association of Audubon Societies condemns the former practice as running "counter to the simplest rules of wild-life conservation" and "is also opposed in spirit to the fundamental ethics of true sportsmanship." The editor approves the recommendation made to the Federal Advisory Board on Migratory-Bird-Treaty Act Regulations and to the Secretary of Agriculture tha a restriction be made whereby in the taking of migratory water-fowl, these birds shall not be shot from any shooting stand where grain had been distributed to attract the birds, and would ask why the decoy practice should not at the same time and for the same fundamental ethics of true sportsmanship be equally barred?

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The National Association of Audubon Societies makes a plea for useful hawks and owls. Nearly all of our hawks and owls are proven highly beneficial to agriculture by the investigations of the Bureau of Biological Survey. It is a fact that these beneficent and magnificent birds are terribly misunderstood and persecuted. The Press Bulletin statement concludes: "The campaigh for the protection of useful hawks and owls which this Association has pushed for nearly 30 years will, in 1933, again be brought to the attention of those state legislatures where this class of birds is not now protected by law. In its educational endeavor, the Association is offering to send without cost literature and pictures of various birds of prey to anyone who may be interested in receiving them." If the tendency in Missouri is as strong for paying bounties for the slaughter of hawks and owls as some of our friends have told us, this offer of the National Association of Audubon Societies should be our opportunity, your opportunity, to educate the legislators of our great state to protect these birds which are proven to be a vital economic factor in Missouri agriculture. Editor.

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PERSONALS

Ralph B. Swain returned on Jan. 1 to Iowa Agricultural College at Ames.

A.F.Satterthwait, U.S.Entomological Laboratory, Webster Groves, retiring president of the American Nature Study Society, addressed that organization in its"Socratic Discussion:The Responsibilities of Our Society" Dec. 28, on "Objectives of Our Society."

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS (continued)

In driving from St. Louis to Media, Penna., from Dec. 10 to 16, 1932, with several inches of snow on the ground, and temperature from 4 to 12°F. in the mornings, Crows were the birds most frequently seen, especially in Ohio. Several flocks of Horned Larks were disturbed from near Highways 40 & 42 in eastern Indiana and western Ohio, a few Juncos were seen, and now and then a Hawk or Cardinal. In one instance a Sparrow Hawk was identified. Several Doves were seen in eastern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. At Media, Penna., Starlings and English Sparrows were most in evidence, with an occasional Cardinal, Junco and Song Sparrow. At Atlantic City, N. J., Dec.26-31, a few Gulls were seen, but rain was too heavy or fog too dense almost the entire week, for bird observation. In eastern Pennsylvania several Turkey Vultures were seen from Highway 1. In Washington, D. C., Starlings were observed clustered in various trees on Pennsylvania Avenue. Returning westward from Washington, Jan. 6-9, 1933, mild weather, ground clear, and sky partially clouded, to Frederick, Md., and via Highway 40 to St. Louis, English Sparrows were probably most frequently seen, Crows occasionally, and an occasional Cardinal and Junco. Several flocks of small Sparrows were observed near the roadside in western Maryland and southwest corner of Penna. E.A.S.

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BIRD BANDING NOTES IN COOPERATION WITH THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Birds banded-

11/17/32, A450171, Bob White, immature
12/12/32, B175746, Carolina Wren
12/24/32, B175747, Carolina Wren (both Wrens were captured in the garage)
1/12/33, B175748, Song Sparrow.

Marshall Magner.

PERSONALS

Miss Clara Blattner of Dana Hall, Wellesley, Mass., a Life Member and an ex-secretary of the St. Louis Bird Club, attended the Annual Meeting of the American Nature Study Society held in the Marlborough-Blenheim, Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 27-29.

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DID THE SANDPIPER THINK

On reaching our summer home early one summer, we discovered that a Spotted Sandpiper had built her nest, if nest it can be called, in a slight depression in the gravel, within about six inches of the dock. Every time anyone passed out onto the dock the old bird would leave her nest, flying away.

The dock at this point was more correctly an approach, being a log crib filled in with gravel of about the same size as that on the shore where the nest was built, and only about eighteen inches higher.

A number of times that first day the bird left her nest, staying away at times long enough to give us some concern as to whether or not the eggs might be injured by her absence.

The next morning, on going onto the dock we discovered the four eggs had been moved a distance of about four feet from the dock, and in this new location the bird did not leave the nest, even when we moved quite rapidly along the path.

About four days after the removal of the eggs, they were all safely hatched. Ernest N. Birge.

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SOME BIRD ETIQUETTE

Table manners are not all the same among the feathered folk.

The Chickadee flits into the feeding box, grabs a seed and flits out upon a twig to eat the seed, holding it in his feet and breaking it open, then flits in and out again time after time. He may be ever so tame and sit right beside you, but never eats where the seeds are.

The Tree Sparrows and Juncos are more calm, and stay in the box till the meal is over.

The English Sparrow is always suspicious. He eats a few seeds, then runs and looks out to see if danger is near, then back again, but always on the alert for trouble.

The Blue Jay is beautiful but ill mannered. He eats as fast as possible and as much as possible, and then, before he leaves, fills his mouth and throat with as much as he can carry

away with him.

With a noisy chattering entrance the Starlings swoop down and sit right down amongst the seed and proceed to eat all within reach, then without rising on the feet shift themselves forward and again eat all they can, all talking and chattering together while eating,- that is, unless there is a quarrel, for they do not all agree among themselves. they may even jump up and run and chase out a couple of shy friends who are trying to attend the feast.

On the suet the Woodpeckers are dainty, and inspect it all over as if hunting the worm. Chickadee is polite too, but Mr. Jay pounds out great chunks, and then carries away as much as he can.

I was surprised and pleased to have the Baltimore Oriole enjoy the dainty suet morsels in early spring.

While recovering from a sickness in Massachusetts, I had the pleasure of watching the many birds that visited a feeding box just outside of the window. Mrs. Ernest N. Birge.

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ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SOCIETIES

The Bird Group of the Nature Study Society will meet Jan.27,1933, 8 p.m., at the Jones residence, 690 Bonita Av. Webster Groves. Subject: "The Flight of Birds and Why, by Victor Stones.

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BOOK NOTICE

"The Bird Life of Texas," by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, is in two volumes, cloth, approximately 1500 pages, with 375 illustrations, 28pls.(10 in color) reproduced from paintings by the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes, all but four of which were prepared especially for this book. Over 600 species and subspecies are here described,-more birds than have been recorded for any other state. Published by the Texas Academy of Science, San Antonio, Texas, in cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey. The Southwest Press, Publisher's Agent, Dallas, Texas. Prepublication Price $8.00, postpublication Price $10.00, carriage prepaid.

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PERSONALITIES

It is certain that under fairly similar conditions, birds do not behave the same. We had the opportunity of observing through most of the same winter, the habits of two pairs of Cardinals, with special reference to their feeding habits.

In one case the male bird would fly onto the feeding box, and in company there of the female, would seem to select the choice seeds, and feed them to his mate. At least being such a gallant gentleman we choose to assume that it was the best of the food that he was offering. She sat amongst the seed all the time and occasionally took one or two herself. After his mate had been well fed, he would proceed to eat what was left.

The same winter within a distance of twelve miles, at a very similar feeding station, the actions of another pair of Cardinals was closely watched. Here the male flew onto the box, and should the female attempt to come within several feet of the food, she was driven away. When his hunger was satisfied, the female was allowed to eat. If she was on the feeding board first, and heard her lord and master chirp, she would fly off, as if she expected something terrible to happen to her.

When it came time for nesting this was all changed, and he too could be as kind and attentive as the male of the first pair.

Of course if they had been humans we would have said that the one male had not been brought up properly, but being birds we just call it temperament, and add, how like some humans!

Ernest N. Birge.

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CATS OR BIRDS, WHICH DO YOU WANT

M.J.Magee, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., read before the Inland Bird Banding Association meeting at Chicago last month a paper entitled "The Problem of Cat Control." He states very convincingly why the cat should not be protected by law. He would have us teach that birds killed and driven off by cats are worth more than the cats. Ed.

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